

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

Principal: Natasha Nurse-Jones
 Vice Principal: Amy Hunt
 Administrative Assistant: Barb Dewar
 5389 Russell St., Halifax NS B3K 1W8



Upcoming Dates:

Sept 10th- Stand Up to Bullying Day

Picture Day- Sept 17th

Sept 22nd-Curriculum Night (Virtual) More Info to Follow

Sept 25th- PD Day (No School for Students)

Sept 30th- Orange Shirt Day

Oct 1st- Treaty Day & Start of Mi'kmaq History Month

Contacts:

Phone: 902- 493-5180

Safe Arrival:

902-493-6180

Fax: 902- 493-5186

Website: <https://sje.hrce.ca/>

Email: sjam@hrce.ca

Follow us on **Twitter**
@SJAMSchool

Remember to check the website at <https://sje.hrce.ca/> where you will find the newsletter and other updated information.

Welcome Back!

Thanks for your patience and support in assuring a smooth start to back to school for students and staff and we were so excited to see our students new and returning! A lot of planning and preparation went into re-opening and we thank staff for their hard work to ensure a positive start for students.

New Updated Daily Covid-19 Checklist:

The daily checklist has been updated by NS Public Health. Please see the updated checklist on our school website and attached to the newsletter.

Students who are exhibiting symptoms at school will be sent home and families directed to call 811. Students cannot return until 811 has directed that it is safe to do so and students have been symptom free for 24hrs. <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>



Safe Arrival:

If your child will not be in school for the regular entry time of 8:50 am., due to illness or appointment, please call the school Safe Arrival number 902-493-6180. If your child arrives after 9:00am, they must arrive at the front door and check in at the office so we can avoid unnecessary calls. If a child is not in school, and we do not have previous communication as to an absence or appointment, we are required to call.

Communication:

Communication with your child's teacher is important. Please reach out and let them know if you have any questions or concerns. It is our priority to work together in partnership, to enable each student to reach their fullest potential. Please allow up to 48 hours for your child's teacher to respond.

Please make sure that **teachers are aware in advance of changes to dismissal routines, so that teachers know the appropriate dismissal plans for each student.** Students are not able to go home with other adults unless the teacher is notified in advance.

Arrival & Dismissal:

Student Entry (assigned back doors): 8:50-9:00am

Dismissal: 3:00 pm

Late Arrival (front doors) after 9:00am

Please drop your child off at the designated drop and go areas. Students can come onto the schools grounds and enter through their designated door at 8:50 am (no earlier). Please leave the pickup area once your child enters the school ground. Students can not be on the school ground before 8:50 am.

If you child arrives after 9:00 am they need to come to the front door and check in at the office.

At the end of the day at 3:00pm students will be dismissed from their designated door. Please leave the pickup area quickly when you have your child, so we can prevent crowding.

Non-Medical Mask Policy:

Students in Gr 4-6 are required to wear masks (properly fitted on their nose and mouth). Please review with your child on how to wear a mask properly and remind them that it is mandatory by NS Public Health.

PP-12 students who ride the bus are also required to wear a mask.

Lunch:

Students staying for lunch are expected to come with a lunch that does not require heating, as well as the necessary utensils. Please make sure that students bring a packed lunch to school in the morning with them to school. We are not able to have outside food delivery services drop food off for students. Also for safety reasons students are not permitted to leave school grounds during lunch unless accompanied by an adult.

Head Lice:

Please check your child's head on a regular basis for head lice and nits. If your child has nits or lice you must notify the school and begin treatment immediately. Your child must continue to have their head checked daily and any lice/nits removed. A second treatment is recommended 10 days after the first.

Nut Aware/ Scent Free:

Please be reminded that all schools in the HRCE are nut aware schools, meaning you are asked to not send any food which contains nuts of any sort. Our schools are also scent free due to environmental sensitivities.

Allergies/ Medical Concerns:

Our HRCE policy states that students who have identified life-threatening allergies must carry their epinephrine auto injectors (epi pen) on their person at all times while at school.

If your child has a life threatening allergy or medical concern that we are not aware of, please notify the school immediately. Teachers are sending home Emergency

Care plans for these students to be filled out. Please send back to your child's teacher ASAP.

If your child requires administration of medication at school (ie. puffers) contact your child's teacher to receive the medication form. This is needed before any medication is administered to your child while at school.

Medical Alert-No Child Without Program:

The No Child Without program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to <https://www.medicalert.ca/No-Child-Without> If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext. 1 to update your child's file.

Orange Shirt Day:

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

School Photos:

Photos will be taken outdoors on Sept. 17th by Paul Adams Photography (individual photos only). Physical distancing and sanitizing precautions will be in place. Class photos will not happen but a composite will be available.

Early Dismissal & Media Release Forms:

Forms will be sent home this week for early dismissal contacts and media release permission. Families are asked to complete them and send them back to your child's teacher.

Emergency Management Planning:

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority for St. Joseph's A. McKay Elementary and the HRCE. We will be implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school employs is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building or the classroom. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during an isolation drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Please be assured that staff at our school spends time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. We will be holding a lockdown drill the week of Sept 21-24th. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. Please contact the school if you have any questions about isolation drills. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Walkthrough between Seton & Our School:

Please do not walk through the area between Seton House and SJAM. This is private property belonging to Seton, and they have requested that students and families not walk through their private property to gain access to Russell St. or Kaye St. We appreciate your help.